

TENT COOPERATION TREA

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference TP 1457 WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/SE 2003/001792	International filing date (day/month/year) 19 November 2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 13 December 2002
Applicant TETRA LAVAL HOLDINGS & FINANCE S.A. et al		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (see Box No. II)

3. Unity of invention is lacking (see Box No. III)

4. With regard to the title,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

Device and method for sterilizing packages

5. With regard to the abstract,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the drawings,

a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

as suggested by the applicant.

as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b. none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

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Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

A device for sterilization in production of packages (8) is adapted for sterilization with a gaseous sterilizing agent which is kept in the gaseous phase throughout the sterilization process. The device comprises a heating zone (2), a sterilization zone (3) and a venting zone (4). It further comprises means for maintaining a higher pressure in the sterilization zone (3) than in the heating zone (2) and venting zone (4). The packages (8) have an open end (11) and a closed end (12). A gaseous sterilizing agent is used and kept in the gaseous phase throughout the sterilization process. A positive pressure is maintained in a sterilization zone (3) in which the sterilization is performed. The application also includes a method.

Elected for publication: Fig. 1

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: B65B 55/10, A61L 2/20

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: B65B, A61L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5258162 A (JAN ANDERSSON ET AL), 2 November 1993 (02.11.1993), column 4, line 57 - column 6, line 8 --	1-35
A	US 6189292 B1 (ROBERT B. ODELL ET AL), 20 February 2001 (20.02.2001), column 9, line 50 - line 52 --	1-35
A	US 3899862 A (GERARD TUYNENBURG MUYS ET AL), 19 August 1975 (19.08.1975), column 5, line 49 - line 57 --	1-35

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

9 March 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

10 -03- 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Swedish Patent Office
Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM
Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86Authorized officer
Anette Hall/EK
Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 2003/001792

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3783581 A (JOSEPH E. PIERCE), 8 January 1974 (08.01.1974), column 9, line 43 - column 10, line 2 -- -----	1-35

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Information on patent family members

27/02/2004

International application No.

PCT/SE 2003/001792

US	5258162	A	02/11/1993	AT	175578	T	15/01/1999
				AU	649971	B	09/06/1994
				AU	6576990	A	16/05/1991
				BR	9005610	A	17/09/1991
				CA	2029169	A,C	08/05/1991
				CN	1051509	A	22/05/1991
				CN	1052427	B	17/05/2000
				CS	9005484	A	15/10/1991
				CZ	283795	B	17/06/1998
				DE	69032892	D,T	27/05/1999
				EP	0427051	A,B	15/05/1991
				SE	0427051	T3	
				ES	2127180	T	16/04/1999
				FI	104310	B	00/00/0000
				FI	905514	D	00/00/0000
				HU	55996	A	29/07/1991
				HU	208640	B	28/12/1993
				HU	907044	D	00/00/0000
				JP	3167999	B	21/05/2001
				JP	3168152	A	19/07/1991
				KR	9610578	B	06/08/1996
				MX	170381	B	18/08/1993
				NO	302217	B	09/02/1998
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				RU	2035919	C	27/05/1995
				SE	463240	B,C	29/10/1990
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				US	2002069616	A	13/06/2002
				AU	3001299	A	27/09/1999
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				JP	2002505921	T	26/02/2002
				JP	2002505980	T	26/02/2002
				US	6164044	A	26/12/2000
				US	6250052	B	26/06/2001
				WO	9945984	A	16/09/1999
				WO	9945985	A	16/09/1999
				US	5974713	A	02/11/1999

US	3899862	A	19/08/1975	NONE
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US	3783581	A	08/01/1974	NONE
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